GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2613
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2007
TIMELY DISPOSAL OF COURT CASES
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in various courts in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government is considering for any fundamental changes in the judicial system for quick disposal of these cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government for timely disposal of cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)

(a): As per the information available, 2,90,90,293 cases were pending in various courts as on 31.12.2006.

(b) to (d) : The matter of quick and timely disposal of cases pending in the courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, with a view to make quick and less expensive justice accessible to the common man at the grass root level, Government has introduced a Bill to establish Gram Nyayalayas in the rural areas which is presently with the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Some of the other steps taken by the Government for facilitating justice delivery include prompt filling up of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, continued central financial support for operation of the Fast Track Courts in the States, providing central assistance for development of infrastructure through construction of courts and residences of Judicial Officers and modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into to force with effect from 1.7.2002 which, inter-alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail and authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments, etc. Further, with a view to ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, Government has made appropriate changes in the Criminal Procedure Code through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, inter-alia, introducing the concept of `Plea Bargaining`.